BULLETIN
METHODIST RURAL FELLOWSHIP
To Further Methodism's Part in Christianizing Rural Life

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VOL. XVIII MARCH, 1961 NO. 1

TOWN AND COUNTRY CHURCH TO BE STUDIED

"The role of the church in town and country areas in present-day transition" will be the major theme for discussion during three weeks, June 26 to July 14, 1961, at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.

Approxmiately fifty leaders in the town and country church will assemble for the three weeks to listen to lectures and participate in discussion. The INSTITUTE ON THE CHURCH IN TOWN AND COUNTRY dealing with church and community in areas of less than 10,000 population, is a part of a program being sponsored by the Council of Southwestern Theological Schools.

Speakers

Lecturers and their topics are Dr. R. L. Skrabanek from Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College speaking on "Theories of Rural Sociology;" Dr. Franklin E. Rector of Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana, speaking on "Church Planning in Town and Country Areas;" and Professor Marvin T. Judy, Perkins School of Theology, speaking on "Sociological and Theological Motivations for Church and Ministry in Town and Country Areas."

Examination Due

With the agricultural revolution having taken place, leaving in its wake many transitional problems, the Institute will attempt to examine from the point of view of sociology, church analysis and research, and theology the place and task of the church in communities of less than 10,000 population. The participants will be from major denominations selected on the basis of their educational qualifications, positions held in their denominations, and a willingness to participate diligently in creative study.

Others Participate

Participiating seminaries include Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin; Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, Austin; Brite College of the Bible, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth; Graduate Seminary, Phillips University, Enid, Oklahoma; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Koontz Gets Region Post

Donald H. Koontz, Simpson College professor of sociology, was elected president of the North-Central Jurisdictional town and country group at a meeting of executives held here the past month.

The group aims to stimulate activities of town and country commissions within the annual conferences of the jurisdiction. States involved are Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Growth In Home Missions

"Home missions, a most important task before us, furnishes many of the growing edges in The Methodist Church," the Rev. Dr. Allen B. Rice, Philadelphia, told the recent annual meeting of the Board of Missions in Buck Hill Falls, Pa.

Dr. Rice, one of the top executives in the board's Division of National Missions, cited 10-year gains of up to 232 per cent in membership in the home mission fields. In a decade where the church's membership gain as a whole has been in the neighborhood of 11 per cent (about 1 per cent a year), Methodism has registered gains of from 36 per cent in Hawaii to 232 per cent in Alaska, Dr. Rice said. One of the most encouraging "growing edges" in home missions is in the Indian Mission Conference.

Interseminary Commission To Sponsor Tour

The Interseminary Commission for Training for the Rural Ministry and its sponsoring schools are sponsoring a village church tour of Western Europe, July 2 to September 2, 1961.

Boston University alumni are eligible for scholarships for admission to the tour group. Arrangements have been made which will make it possible for the group to hold conversations with village pastors in Holland, France, Italy, Scandinavia and Germany, as well as to visit the Methodist Ecumenical Conference in Oslo, Norway.

Details, tour costs and information are available through Dr. Herbert E. Stotts, Box 18, Boston University School of Theology, 745 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 15, Mass.

Minnesota Rural Church Institute

Mr. Phil Aylesworth was the leader at the Minnesota Rural Church Institute, held at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, the last week in November. The state council of churches, Lutherans, Roman Catholics and three farm organizations joined the University in backing this "Agriculture Short Course."

The Minnesota commission on town and country provided some scholarship aid for the Methodists attending the institute. The vice chairman of the commission, Mr. Clinton Hess, a secretary of the State Farmers Union, participated in a panel discussion one evening during the institute.

METHODIST McGOVERN APPOINTED TO WHITE HOUSE STAFF

Dr. George McGovern, Mitchell, S. D. Methodist, has been appointed to President Kennedy's White House Staff as Food For Peace Coordinator.

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The Methodist Rural Fellowship

A fellowship of Methodist Ministers and laymen who are concerned with Methodism's responsibility toward creating and sustaining a Christian Culture for rural America.

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PLEASE always send us your change of address when you move.

A Word About Volume And Number

Some questions have arisen about the way we list the volume and number of the Bulletin. We inherited both! However, with this first issue of 1961 we are changing the volume number to eighteen since the last one was 17. Also, as we begin 1961 the number will be one—the first issue of the new year.

EDITORIAL

During the last few months, especially since the September, 1960 issue, many fine compliments have been coming to the editor. Some glowing comments have been made about the make-up and content of the Bulletin. One generous member went so far as to call it "error-free"! It is far better to have over-statements in this direction than in the other. We did change printers for the September issue and the bulletin is no longer stapled. This saves considerable on the cost of printing.

NEWS STILL A PROBLEM

Gathering the news for each issue still presents a problem. It isn't that many things are not happening over the church; it is a matter of our members remembering to send the news. Perhaps it would help if we could more easily remember the months of publication. Those months are March, June, September and December. Take June, for example, this is moving time for many of us. Or take December, this is Christmas month. Count three months forward or backward from months we publish the Bulletin. However, news should be mailed at least two weeks before publishing date. For example, news for the June issue should reach me by May 15.

ADDRESSES AGAIN

The matter of incorrect addresses is no simple one. When you move please notify the editor. Every effort is made to keep up with our members, but often times the bulletin comes back marked, "moved, left no address", or "refused." To send a bulletin the second or third time means it must be addressed by hand. This involves much time and delays your bulletin. We appreciate those who are sending us the U.S. Government card indicating a change of address.

PROBLEM OF SECTIONAL NEWS

Some sections of the church may feel slighted as far as news coverage is concerned. But it is clear that we must use what we have. For example, it so happens that for this issue we have an over-abundance of Texas news. Of course, Texas is a big state and has several conferences, but if we had it, we would do our best to balance the news by Jurisdictions and Conferences.

MORE MEMBERS NEEDED

Each month we are running the number of our members (or at least the number of those receiving the Bulletin) by states. Check on your state! Arizona, Delaware, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Utah and Wyoming all have less than five people receiving the Bulletin. Several other states have less than 20. The Conference Commissions on Town and Country could take the MRF as one of their projects. We always have a few sample copies available. Write for some. If you ask for over ten or so, please enclose something for postage. Help BOOST THE BULLETIN in your conference!

J. E. H.

MRF BULLETINS MAILED BY STATES

According to Dec. 1960 Mailing

Alabama	2
Alaska	1
Arizona	2
Arkansas	7
California	22
Colorado	20
Connecticut	2
Delaware	1
District of Columbia	8
Florida	42
Georgia	33
Hawaii	1
Illinois	20
Indiana	43
Iowa	74
Kansas	34
Kentucky	14
Louisiana	11
Maine	5
Maryland	8
Massachusetts	22
Michigan	25
Minnesota	44
Mississippi	13
Missouri	61
Montana	1
Nebraska	93
Nevada	1
New Hampshire	5
New Jersey	4
New Mexico	2
New York	58
North Carolina	69
North Dakota	1
Ohio	113
Oklahoma	8
Oregon	31
Pennsylvania	53
Rhode Island	1
South Carolina	3
South Dakota	28
Tennessee	56
Texas	33
Utah	2
Vermont	12
Virginia	47
Washington	5
West Virginia	18
Wisconsin	22
Wyoming	4
Total	1185

Mississippi Town & Country Institute

The thirteenth Annual Institute on the Town and Country Church was held at Mississippi State University January 9-11. The theme this session was "Smokestacks and Steeples" — Role of the Church in the Industrializing Community.

Speakers from out of the state participating were Dr. Carl A. Clark, Professor of Pastoral Ministry, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth Texas and Dr. James W. Sells, Executive Secretary,

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A Study of Group Ministry Programs

Dan Schores, Town and Country Director, Missouri area, is engaged in a year-long study of the Group Ministry programs in the United States in an effort to determine what they are doing, how they were started, what factors lead to success or failure, and what have been their results. Intensive case studies of 18 in Missouri and three in southern Iowa are in preparation following 35 on-the-spot interviews (of a needed 45) with Group leaders. From this preliminary information, a questionnaire will be prepared to gather data from other states. The report will be forthcoming next summer.

Idea Leaflet Free

As part of this study, a three page mimeographed leaflet has been prepared listing a hundred or so project and program ideas being used successfully by Groups studied thus far. It is available free of cost in limited quantities from the Area office, 1408 St. Andrew, Columbia, Mo.

Presidents Message

It is said that Adam turned to Eve, as they were leaving the garden, and remarked, "We are living in an age of change." At our Study Conference at Columbus in November Dr. Bond Bible called our attention to some major social changes that are occurring in his and surrounding states. He is Extension Specialist in Rural Sociology at Ohio State University. These changes are affecting the rural church and its program.

Mr. Stafford

Population is increasing rapidly and one-fifth of us change residence annually. Many rural counties are losing population to industrial counties. The new white collar worker is a property owner with a stake in his community.

The differences between rural and urban people are decreasing. Social values of rural and urban people are mixing and merging. Mass communication is urbanizing the traditional rural values.

The trend is toward fewer and larger farms.

What of the church? The rural church has resisted change more than other rural social institutions. Methodism attracts a larger proportion of people in rural than in urban communities. This has implications. Too many churches are too small to follow effectively the organizational pattern of The Methodist Church, and to attract members and secure adequate ministerial leadership.

The suburban church, serving as it does the growing area of our society, must adjust its program and hours to the needs and desires of the residents.

Space does not permit a discussion but there is enough here to start us to thinking and praying and working to make Jesus Christ Lord in the areas of rural and suburban need.

Walter Mounts Named Oklahoma Director

Walter W. Mounts, 34, took over the new position of full time director of CROP (Christian Rural Overseas Program) in Oklahoma on January 15. Prior to this time the CROP program in Oklahoma has been under the part time direction of Arnold Lambert of the National CROP Office. Mr. Lambert will continue as Field Supervisor for Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Iowa.

Mounts comes to CROP from the Capitol Hill Methodist Church of

(Continued on Page 6)

BISHOPS CALL T&C CONFERENCE

A CALL FOR A METHODIST TOWN AND COUNTRY CONFERENCE FOR THE SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH ISSUED BY THE COLLEGE OF BISHOPS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION.

Whereas there have been held four National Methodist Town and Country Conferences, and whereas a large percentage of the churches and church members of the Southeastern Jurisdiction are located in town and country communities, and whereas Annual Conferences, Commissions on Town and Country Work, cooperating with the Southeastern Jurisdictional Council and its Committee on Town and Country Work, have projected successful programs, both individually and collectively during the past decade, and whereas there is evident need of a major Town and Country Conference in the Southeast to study the needs and project plans for the future, we, the members of the College of Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, do hereby issue a call for a Methodist Town and Country Conference to be held at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, July 27-30, 1961.

We call for full representation from all Annual Conferences within the bounds of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and from all Boards and agencies serving in the town and country communities. We call upon the duly authorized Committees, Commissions, Annual Conferences and other agencies charged with responsibility in Town and Country Work to plan and execute the said Conference. We pledge our full support to this Conference,

College of Bishops
The Southeastern Jurisdiction
The Methodist Church

Arthur J. Moore	Marvin A. Franklin	J. W. Henley
Clare Purcell	Roy H. Short	Walter C. Gum
W. T. Watkins	Nolan B. Harmon	Paul Hardin, Jr.
Costen J. Harrell	Bachman G. Hodge	J. O. Smith
Paul N. Garber		

Missouri T&C Institute

Population, schools, communities and churches was the theme of this year's T & C Church Institute held January 30–February 1 at the Student Union, Missouri University, Columbia. Outstanding churches were recognized at the opening banquet for their service to the communitiy. A tour of the new agriculture building and the United Church, Hartsburg, was featured during the three days.

Speakers included Dr. Carl Taylor, sociologist of world reknown; Dr. H. Pat Wardlow, Assistant Comm. of Education for Missouri; Dr. H. S. Randolph, T & C Director for the United Presbyterian Church; Dr. C. B. Ratchford, head of MU's extension service.

Please watch your expiration date on the envelope in which your bulletin is mailed. Please renew promptly. If your number reads 3/61, it means your subscription expires with this issue.

Most Methodist Churches Use Our Literature

About three-fourths of the Methodist churches in the United States are 100 percent users of Methodist literature in their church schools, according to reports from 33,090 of the approximately 39,000 churches.

Of the total churches reporting, 24,629 said they use only the Methodist materials in their church schools. A total of 8,461 said they are not 100 percent users of Methodist literature, though many of these use some Methodist church school publications.

The announcement was made by the Rev. Dr. Henry M. Bullock, Nashville, at the biennial meeting of executive secretaries of boards of education of Methodist annual conferences, which was held here November 7–11. He is editor of Methodist church school publications.

Dr. Bullock said that 92 percent of the denomination's Central (Negro) Jurisdiction churches that reported use only Methodist literature in their church schools. Eighty-seven percent of the South Central Jurisdiction churches that reported do so, and the percentage is the same for the Southeastern Jurisdiction. For the Western Jurisdiction it is 82 percent; Northeastern, 60 percent; and North Central, 56 percent.

Methodist church school literature is prepared by the Editorial Division of the Methodist Board of Education and published by The Methodist Publishing House for Sunday school classes and other educational activities of local churches. Total circulation each quarter is about 7,000,000.

The executive secretaries meeting was held at the Methodist Board of Education building and Scarritt College.

Methodists In Senate

Two more Methodists were elected to the United States Senate. This makes a total of 19, again the largest number in the Senate from a single denomination.

The additions are Sens. J. Caleb Boggs, former governor of Delaware, and Lee Metcalf, former representative from Montana.

Bids for the Senate were lost by two Methodists already in public office—Gov. Herschel Loveless of Iowa and Rep. George S. McGovern of South Dakota.

Re-elected

Methodists who were re-elected to the upper house are Sens. Henry C. Dworshak of Idaho, James Eastland of Mississippi, B. Everett Jordan of North Carolina, Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota, Richard B. Russell of Georgia, Andrew F. Schoeppel of Kansas, Mrs. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine and John J. Sparkman of Alabama.

Holdovers

Holdovers are Sens. Alan Bible of Nevada, John Marshall Butler of Maryland, Francis Case of South Dakota, Clair Engle of California, Bourke B. Hickenlooper of Iowa, Lister Hill of Alabama, Spessard L. Holland of Florida, George A. Smathers of Florida and John J. Williams of Delaware.

Others

Other denominiational affiliations in the Senate include 15 Baptist, 14 Episcopalian, 11 Presbyterian, 11 Roman Catholic.

A similar count in the House of Representatives, where there were 81 Methodists during the last session, is not yet possible. However, preliminary checking indicates that 67 of these were re-elected. Newly elected representatives are expected to add to the list.

More Resolutions Adopted at Columbus

(Editor's Note: the following resolutions, adopted at the Columbus meeting, October 19, 1960, arrived too late for the December issue.)

1. The Methodist Rural Fellowship is thankful for the ever increasing productivity and efficiency of our farm families in the production of food and fiber.

We urge all elected representatives in congress to work for a practical maximum use of the productivity of our farms and farm people, in order that our amber waves of grain, our fruited plains, and the total productivity of this nation's agriculture might reflect a real blessing of God on America and the world.

2. The Methodist Rural Fellowship members in session endorse the proposal that young men of the United States be offered an alternative to the compulsory draft and military service.

The Methodist Rural Fellowship believes that world peace is a primary concern of all citizens of this country and that the sending of trained young men to countries where their skills can best be used to help the rural people and all people of the world is a step towards lasting peace.

3. Be it resolved, further, that the members of congress be sent copies of the report of the Message Committee and copies of the above resolutions adopted by this conference, and that copies also be sent to the president elect and vice-president elect.

Carl Staser

New Church Every 22 Hours

Along with being aware of the overall needs for new churches, Methodists should be conscious of the urgent church extension needs in special areas of the U. S., an authority on church extension said recently.

The Rev. Dr. B. P. Murphy, Philadelphia, told the annual meeting of the Board of Missions at Buck Hill Falls, Pa.: "We must educate all of our congregations toward enthusiastic support of our church building program, especially in light of the 1960 General Conference call for a new Methodist church every 22 hours during the next four years." He is executive secretary for church extension of the Division of National Missions.

NOTICE—Do not send your renewals and checks to the editor. This only delays your renewal. Send all renewals to C. Edwin Murphy, Box 208, Lexington, Nebraska.

Keep your subscription up-to-date! Renew Promptly.

COMMITTEE STUDYING FAMILY FARM

A committee composed of agricultural experts and rural churchmen, led by Philip Aylesworth and John Howes are formulating statements on Farm Labor and the Family Farm for the consideration by Official Methodism. These statements will be presented in the near future.

Minnesota T&C Commission Meets

The Minnesota Town and Country Commission met December 1. The Rev. Harold Clark, chairman, opened the meeting and reports were heard from the secretary, treasurer and executive secretary.

Some of the matters of business included reports on the Methodist Rural Fellowship, CROP, Fall District conferences,the Denver Convocation, and the Church Standards Survey.

The group made plans for a Rural Life Workshop in the spring of 1961, the Annual Conference Rural Church Dinner, Lord's Acre Promotion, the Rural Credit Union, and Rural Leadership Schools. The next meeting of the Executive Committee was to be held January 18 and the full Commission will meet in April.

22 Texas Ministers In Midland Experiment

When Small Church Calls For Help

Twenty-two Bryan District ministers responded to a call for help from a small church and came together on a Saturday morning in December for the "Milano experiment."

Answering a call from the district superintendent, Karl Bayer, and Louis Sada, Jr., district secretary of Town and Country Work, the ministers conducted a community census in the small town of Milano and the adjoining countryside. The survey was made under the direction of Alton Jones, conference secretary of Town and Country Work.

Prompted by a desire to find out just what the facts were concerning a typical rural situation in an area of population decline, the group discovered that instead of being confronted by a "hopeless" situation there was cause for much optimism and a challenge to increased efforts. A total of 69 prospects for the Methodist church were found—more than the present membership of the local church.

Mr. James Griffin, superintendent of schools in Milano and local church lay leader, served as host to the group. Lunch was served by the church. Richard Lockhart is pastor of the Milano-Chriesman charge.

Plan Group Ministry

Plans for a Group Ministry are being formulated in North Navarro County, Texas of the Corsicana District. The Rev. Edward H. Otwell, Executive Secretary of the Central Texas Town and Country Commission met Nov. 28 with Rev. Don Holt, pastor of Barry-Emhouse-Pleasant Grove, Rev. Carl Gilkerson, pastor of Blooming Grove-Dresden, and Rev. Noah McCain,of Frost to discuss possibilities of organizing such a group.

The purpose of the Group Ministry will be to strengthen the area of about 850 Methodist members and to effectively minister to the needs of each church in a cooperative effort. Such things as the Methodist Men, evangelistic campaigns, youth activities, Woman's Society studies and Vacation Church School will be planned cooperatively, using leaders of the area.

Plans were made for further organization which will be completed after Jan. 1, when a council will be formed with representatives from each church.

South Georgia Begins Study

Methodist churches in South Georgia began a conference-wide study January 2 to determine the need of church extension and the efficiency of already existing churches among Methodists.

The survey is being undertaken as a part of a state-wide study which includes the South and North Georgia Conferences and the Georgia Conference of the Central Jurisdiction. North Georgia began its survey last September.

Dr. Earl Brewer Heads

Headed by Dr. Earl Brewer, director of Emory University's Research Center, the survey will attempt to give a complete picture of Methodism's status and condition inGeorgia. In addition to extensive research by Brewer's office, Methodist ministers will provide detailed information about their various local churches.

Local ministers are being required to complete a questionnaire which is divided into three sections. The questionnaire will attempt to gather information about the following: (1) the pastoral charge and the pastor; (2) the geographical location of churches and membership distribution, and (3) the organizational efficiency of each local church. The clergymen will also "spot" each of their church members on county maps.

Fall Completion Expected

The state-wide project is expected to be completed and published by September, 1961. Preliminary reports will be made in each of the three Georgia conferences at Annual (regional) Conferences which meet next summer. Specific recommendations relative to the completed study will be made by Georgia Methodist boards and agencies at the 1962 Annual Conferences.

The South Georgia study is being conducted by the Research and Planning Committee and the Town and Country Commission of the South Georgia Conference.

Walter Mounts Named Oklahoma Director

(Continued from Page 3)

Oklahoma City, where he served as director of evangelism. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1950 with a BA Degree. Following three years military service during the Korean War, he returned to the University of Oklahoma, receiving a Law Degree in 1956. Upon graduation he was appointed County Judge of Cotton County, Oklahoma. In 1957 he was appointed County Attorney when a vacancy occurred in that office and was elected for another term in 1958. He resigned this office in April of 1960 to go into full time church work as a layman.

Mounts will continue intensive work in 25 wheat producing counties of western Oklahoma, where CROP boards were established last year, and will direct an expansion of the program into 7 other counties of the wheat area. In addition to directing CROP activities in Oklahoma, Mounts will assist the Texas CROP Director in the Lubbock Area during the fall months.

T & C OLDER YOUTH MEET

A group of older youth and their adult counselors of the Reedsville, West Virginia Methodist Church met recently in the Clingerman home for the purpose of discussing job and career opportunities.

Following prayer by Kermit Zinn, their Sunday School Teacher, a turkey dinner was served to the group by Mrs. Work, Mrs. Zinn and Mrs. Clingerman. A review and explanation of the church program was conducted by the members of the Memorial Loan Fund Committee: Arnold Bolyard, Virginia Work, Sara Zinn, and Ronald Bolyard. The church makes money available for the youth of the church to borrow to go to college. Reidsville is a town and country church.

The filmstrip "Split Decision" was shown and discussed by the group. Each college person then told why he chose to continue his education. Rev. Mr. Richards summarized by saying, "True happiness comes thru serving others.

Seated left to right: Sandra Clingerman and Judy Parsons of Valley District High School, Emma Bess Born, student of the Monongalia General Hospital School of Nurses, Marleen Murray of Morgantown Business College. (2nd row, left to right) Joseph Taylor, Charles Blue of WVU, John Lazell of Valley High, Virginia Work, Sara Zinn and Agatha Clingerman. (Back row, left to right) Eldon Turner of WVU, Kermit Zinn, their Sunday School teacher and MYF counselor, Warren Kelley, an instructor at WVU and president of the Masontown Methodist Men; Ronald Bolyard of Shepherd State College, John Huffman and Philip White of Valley High School, W. E. Richards, pastor; Arnold Bolyard, Wallace Murray, teacher in Cleveland, O., and James Work of Fairmont State College.

Notes About The Changing Countryside

(These notes were taken from an address by Mr. Alexander Nunn of the **Progressive Farmer** who spoke to Town and Country leaders at Hinton Rural Life Center last October.)

The latest census shows that there are about 3,600,000 farm families in the U. S. Formerly in 1960, there were 6,000,000. In the South during the 10-year period there was a loss of one out of every four farm families, and since 1954 the rate has been one out of every three families. The New England states have lost farm families at about the same rate as the South; the smallest loss was sustained in the corn belt.

Countryside patterns also have changed. There are more forests as well as more fields grown up with weeds, etc. There are more people living in the country who do not farm. Farm population continues to grow older. Between 1965 and 1970 it is expected that a crisis in management and ownership of farm lands will occur.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN METHODISTS MEET

Trinity Methodist Church, Denver, Colorado, was the scene of a two day meeting, Oct. 16–17, 1960 of interested persons from Town and Country Commissions in the Great Plains and eastern Rocky Mountains areas. The meeting commenced at 11:00 a.m. with a worship service in Asbury Methodist Church with Dr. Harlan Bryant, Dean of the College of Education of the University of Wyoming bringing the Layman's Day message.

At two p.m. the conference resumed at Trinity Methodist Church with Dr. Glenn F. Sanford, Director of the Department of Town and Country work. The Rev. B. B. Curtis of Wahpeton, N. Dak. was elected chairman. The Rev. Harry J. Dutt of Onida, S. Dak. was elected Secretary.

Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to plan a quadrennial program for the Town and Country Commissions in the northern Great Plains and eastern Rocky Mountain areas.

A discussion of problems revealed that (1) distance, (2) isolation and loneliness, and (3) a need to talk about basic philosophy and patterns of work in our church today were common major concerns.

The feeling was also expressed that many of our smaller churches have no worship experience at all, but are enveloped with a deep foreboding gloom. This may in part be due to a lack of a sense of mission.

Rural People Not Backward

The Reverend C. Ted Hawes, district superintendent in the Utah area, reminded the group that "rural people were no longer backward." The problem of isolation and loneliness of ministers in sparsely settled areas does continue to be a problem. How to overcome the attitude that ministers from large churches can tell rural churches how to do things, is also a rural church problem. Education along these lines should be adopted on an Annual Conference level suggested Sanford.

Miss Connie Russell, Executive Secretary of Town and Country Work of the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Board of Missions suggested that the Town and Country Commission must not feel sorry for itself, but must present challenge." She also stated that the philosophy of small churches should not necessarily be perpetuated where they can effectively be combined.

The group also expressed major concern over the great missionary areas among dissatisfied Mormon people.

Successful Methods

The meeting culminated with a sharing of various successful approaches in rural work. Among these were the following: 1. a rural radio ministry, 2. church school at home, 3. mobile unit ministry, 4. a pilot church in which emphasis is placed on a selected church, 5. rural church workshops, 6. recognition of a pastor and church at Annual Conference time, 7. survey workshops, 8. ministry to migrants, 9. rural churchmanship award, 10. the work of the Farm and Home Committee, etc.

The meeting was the first of its kind in this area. Previous meetings have been larger in geographical area and more general in their approach. The hope was that further such meetings might be held periodically.

Many churches will make their major offering for Christian relief and rehabilitation overseas in the observance of ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING on March 12, or related denominational appeals during the period before Easter. A part of such offerings, as determined by each denomination, underwrites the basic program of Church World Service and helps to support, along with contributions from churches of other countries, the work of the Division of Inter Church Aid and Service to Refugees of the World Council of Churches.

Funds raised through the year-round United Appeal of the Protestant Churches in 1961, One Great Hour of Sharing and CROP, will help finance emergency and continuing relief and reconstruction services in many parts of the world. The United Appeal for the year—direct denominational programs, Church World Service, the World Council Division and approved agencies—totals $14,818,766. CROP'S part in this budget

(Continued on Page 8)

Two New Brochures in The Circuit Series

Two new brochures in the Circuit Series are now available. These are entitled "A Check List for Quarterly Conference", especially written for ministers with more than one church. It is designed to be an aid in filling out quarterly conference reports and preparing for the meeting of the conference in the local charge. This brochure is written by Harold McSwain, town and country director of the Memphis Conference.

The second brochure, just off the press, is entitled, "The Every Member Visitation in a Circuit". This new brochure not only gives a brief statement of Christian stewardship, but gives help, step by step, on how a circuit can put on the Every Member Visitation (Canvass) with all churches participating simultaneously. Bill Appleby, chairman of the North Mississippi Town and Country Commission, wrote the last section of this brochure and Harold McSwain did the first section. Appleby has had phenomenal success with the simultaneous Every Member Canvass.

The brochures are published by the town and country commissions of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and are available at 5¢ each, postpaid, from Box 28, Rogersville, Tennessee. James E. Hankins is the editor of the brochures.

Week Of Witnessing

As a part of Methodism's 1960–64 quadrennial program, Methodist churches are expected to have a "Week of Witnessing" March 5–10.

During the special "week," actually a six-day period, churches will concentrate on visitation and person-to-person evangelism.

"We hope that each church member will tell friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, and others what the Lord has done for him," said Dr. Harry Denman, Nashville, general secretary of the Methodist General Board of Evangelism.

Theme of the quadrennial program is "Jesus Christ Is Lord." "Personal Witness and Evangelism" is one of nine thrusts of the program.

Following the witnessing phase of the evangelistic thrust will be a "week of spiritual enrichment through worship in every church" from Palm Sunday, March 26, through Easter, April 2.

During February, bishops are holding conferences on personal witness and evangelism in their areas, and in local churches members are being "confronted and challenged to witness about Christ."

Dist. Superintendents Evaluates Group Ministry

A report has come to the desk of the editor. This report deals with the West Washington Group Ministry in the Bangor District of the Maine Conference. The Rev. Elwin L. Wilson, district superintendent, gave the report and made the evaluation in 1960. Following are some excerpts from that report:

"There is no question as to the continuing success of the WWGM however it is measured. A new Methodist church at Wesley has been organized and an active church school and Woman's Society of Christian Service organized there. A fuller ministry is being given to the little low-income community of Georgetown, a few miles from Harrington and traditionally a part of that parish. And the effectiveness and quality of the spiritual life of the ministers have been enhanced by the fellowship, worship, study and planning which they have together each month.

Work Strengthened

The work in all departments of church life has been strengthened. Leadership education has improved the church schools. Excellent vacation church schools have been made available to all the children of the area. United stewardship, evangelistic, financial, missionary and educational efforts have made possible larger successes in individual churches. Work with youth has been a major concern; youth fellowships have been organized or reactivated and a United Christian Youth Council formed. Woman's Societies of Christian Service have found a deeper meaning and richer service as key women have training and experience in leadership. Young adults have been brought together in the church and have found places of fellowship and service there. A travelling bookshelf is maintained and made available to the individual churches, through which 1300 items were sold and distributed in 1959 with cash receipts of $568.59. Some of the changes which are taking place are no less than thrilling."

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

(Continued from Page 7)

is $1,116,400 for providing food and other essential material aid not available from the other contributing sources.

Generous support of the denominations' ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING and related appeals of other communions is essential for the maintenance and extension of the ministry of the churches to "the least of these" around the world.

Completes 8th Year of Lord's Acre Program

Shook's Chapel, on the Sulphur Springs Circuit, North Texas Conference, has completed its 8th successful Lord's Acre-Lord's Hour Plan. Proceeds for this year were $625.00, and over the past 8 years have totaled $6,400.00.

The plan was set up for the purpose of improving the church property and many projects have been presented as the first fruits of the labor of the hands and minds of the church community and from merchants from the county-seat town of Sulphur Springs.

The Rev. Francis Sales is present pastor of Shook's Chapel. Chairman of the Lord's Acre-Lord's Hour Committee was Mr. L. B. McCracken. Auctioneer E. N. Adams, from Sulphur Springs offered his services in selling the articles, with Mr. Bill Greggs assisting.

The Lord's Acre-Lord's Hour success story is being repeated many times each year in Texas.

President Appoints Committees

Responding to the requests made by the Methodist Rural Fellowship on the Rural Church held in Columbus, Ohio, November 7-9, 1960, I am naming the following committees:

COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE DIVISION BETWEEN URBAN AND TOWN AND COUNTRY

Rev. James E. Hankins, Chairman, Rogersville, Tenn.
Rev. H. N. Sandridge, Ferrum, Va.
Dr. Harry V. Richardson, Atlanta, Ga.
Rev. William B. Lutz, Akron, Mich.
Dr. Roy Sturm, Philadelphia, Pa.
Miss Cornelia Russell, New York, N.Y.
Bishop Roy H. Short, Nashville, Tenn.
Dr. Earl D. C. Brewer, Atlanta, Ga.
Dr. J. W. Sells, Atlanta, Ga.
Dr. Ray F. Magnuson, Fortuna, Calif.
Dr. Marvin T. Judy, Dallas, Texas.

COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE ROLE AND MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TOWN AND COUNTRY WORK, ETC.

Rev. Russell Hoy, Chairman, Coshocton, Ohio.
Dr. John B. Howes, Washington, D. C.
Dr. Glenn S. Sanford, Philadelphia, Pa.
Rev. Billie Scott Mick, Union, W. Va.
Dr. Gene Holdridge, Nashville, Tenn.
Miss Rosemary Nixon, New York, N. Y.
Rev. Leslie E. Simon, Gillett, Wisc.
Mrs. W. L. Perryman, Kansas City, Mo.
Rev. William Foster, Afton, Minn.
Dr. C. Edwin Murphy, Lexington, Nebr.
Rev. B. B. Curtis, Whapeton, N. D.

McNairy-Hardin Group Ministry, Memphis Conference Meets

A Youth Activities Week-end was held at the Shiloh Church Friday night through Sunday noon last October. The week-end involved recreation, worship, classes, and program and activities planning. Study groups were called "Personal Christian Living" and "Working With God". Meals were served each night and at noon Saturday. Saturday night featured a hay ride. About 75 young people, counselors, and ministers were in attendance.

Thanksgiving services for the Group Ministry were held on November 23. A Youth Choir composed of youth from all the churches gave two special numbers.

An exploratory meeting for those interested in organizing a Group Ministry Methodist Men's Club was held at the Shiloh Church on November 10 with Staff Director of Lay Activities, Harold Watkins presiding. An organizational meeting was held December 8 at the Pickwick Church. Conference Lay Leader "Red" Bond was guest speaker.

The first issue of the Group Ministry "News Letter" was published December 14. It carried an article called "Peace on Earth" which was written by Superintendent Robbins while he was a chaplain in New Guinea in 1942. In the "What's Happening" section, statements of activities of the different churches were given. A listing of preaching appointments for all the churches was included as were "Dates to Remember."

Future plans for the Group Ministry include a training school to begin on March 12.

Missouri T&C Institute

The Tenth Annual Town and Country Church Institute at the University of Missouri, January 30-February 1, 1961, drew approximately 400 lay people and ministers to Columbia.

The three-day institute featured out-of-state speakers Dr. Carl C. Taylor, sociologist and Dr. Henry S. Randolph, executive secretary of the Town and Country Department of the United Presbyterian Church 1938-1950.

The program focussed on three topics "The Church and Its Community", "Our Churches and Our Schools" and "The Church Serving a Changing Population".

A "Churches of Distinction" luncheon service recognized nine churches for distinctive achievements. These

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RURAL-CITY PREACHERS DISCUSS MUTUAL PROBLEMS

"When I think of the most pious people I know, I have to name more laymen than ministers," Dr. Joseph Quillian, Dean of Perkins School of Theology, told more than 50 City, County Seat and Circuit pastors at an area Town and Country Conference. The conference, held at the Umphrey Lee Student Center at SMU was sponsored by the North Texas Conference Town and Country Commission. The Rev. O. B. Rogers, secretary of the commission, was the presiding chairman for the afternoon session, and the Rev. Ed T. Hayes, chairman of the North Texas Town and Country Commission, presided at the morning session.

Dr. Quillian spoke on the subject, "Doing Our Job." Calling attention to the responsibility of the minister to be intellectual, he warned that "We must be intellectuals within the faith."

Dr. Floyd Curl, field work director for Perkins School of Theology, discussed the subject, "Extending the ministry of the Pastor and the Local Church Congregation."

Others participating on the program were the Rev. John Poe Hensley, song leader; the Rev. T. Lee Miller, superintendent of the Dallas N. E. District; the Rev. Thomas Weaver, superintendent of the Denton District; and the W. T. Stephenson, pastor of First Methodist Church, Bonham.

The Rev. Mr. Stephenson addressed the group on the subject, "I am a County-Seat Town Pastor." He described the areas of cooperation between the county-seat pastor and the other pastors in the county. Illustrating the opportunities for cooperative action, he described the successful revival held at Bonham earlier in the year, and an evangelistic rally the preceding year.

Members of the group voted to ask the Rev. O. B. Rogers to meet with the district superintendents of the North Texas Conference and formulate a plan for extending the group ministry program in the conference. After the plan has been officially accepted by the conference cabinet, a conference for town and city pastors and student pastors from Perkins School of Theology is to be scheduled to promote the group ministry program.

Dollars From Nuts—

Many Ozark families have discovered the black walnut as an additional income source each fall. It may be that churches will want to use the idea of gathering, hulling and selling the nuts as a special Lord's Acre project. MYF groups might adopt the idea. Several Methodist families are doing this as individual's projects now.

Hulled walnuts are worth about $4 per hundred pounds. A simple hulling machine can be made following the advice of your county agent. A hundred pounds will furnish ten pounds of kernels. Shells are often used as packing in oil well casings or as an abrasive in sand-blasting.

Pecans might be the project instead of walnuts.

A Case of Suicide

By Dan Schores

I know of a case of suicide. It was a tragic affair. A family of neglected children were left. Noble purposes in life had been planned for the victim by its Father.

The suicide victim was a rural church. God called it to serve others, but it was concerned about self. People in the neighborhood—children of God—needed its witness, but the church did not care. The pastor challenged the few remaining members, however they did not want to grow or change. "Those people won't be interested in our little church" was their reply. The church forgot that it should be interested in "those people."

Denominational officials called on the church to share with others. "We have enough to do just taking care of our own needs." So apportionments were cut; voluntary offerings not taken; program not followed; evangelism neglected. And the church died. It took its own life. Why?

Emile Durkheim in his famous study of suicide says, "Life is said to be intolerable unless some reason for existing is involved, some purpose justifying life's trials. The individual alone is not a sufficient end for his activity."

Through failure to be concerned about the salvation of others, the church committed suicide. It had lost its purpose. Maybe it was not such a great loss after all. A church not concerned about others may not be worth saving itself. But the tragedy of neglected service remains.

First Lord's Acre Proves Success

Forty families participating in the first year of a Lord's Acre program at the Booker, Texas Methodist Church resulted in $7,865.55 being raised during the year, according to a report by Leroy Hughes, chairman of the Lord's Acres-Hours celebration program held during the Thanksgiving season.

Acres of wheat and other grain, calves, pigs, lambs and chickens constituted a majority of the projects undertaken by the congregation of which the Rev. Bruce Matthews is pastor. Non-agricultural families gave a portion of their first hour's pay per week, and several of the youth of the church participated by giving a certain amount of their summer wages.

A covered dish dinner was served during the celebration program, and a film strip of the Lord's Acres-Hours Program was shown. The evening was concluded with a worship service and distribution of project cards for next year.

New Rural Development Program Is Launched in Lebanese Village

A major project for rural development has been undertaken by the Ohio Council of Churches, Agricultural Missions, Inc., and the Near East Christian Council.

Reporting on his return from three-week consultations with Lebanese, U. S. and UN officials, Dr. Richard O. Comfort described the main points of the project. The site will be in the Akkar area, north of Tripoli, where a Rural Fellowship Center will be rehabilitated and an agricultural training school for young people set up in the village of Jibrail.

"Major aims," Dr. Comfort explained, "will be to develop a village-centered extension program and to provide education in cooperative production and marketing methods."

Home economics classes for women and youth training, patterned after the 4-H Clubs, are also planned in addition to establishing Scout troops in the area. Ten villages around Akkar would be involved immediately in the program, Dr. Comfort said, and Palestine refugees in two camps in the area may also participate. Immediate plans call for a dairy barn and processing plant for dairy products; a greenhouse for vegetable plants and seedlings to be distributed to the whole area; and a poultry project.

"The land at the Center will be used for experimental farming, and a program to improve strains of native livestock will be begun," Dr. Comfort said.

Also involved in this self-help enterprise are the Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP) of Church World Service; Heifer Project, Inc.; and the Cooperative League in the U.S.A.

Take Steps To Increase Church School Members

The following steps have been recommended to pastors and local church commissions on education by the Division of the Local Church, General Board of Education, to increase church school membership and attendance:

1. Organize more study groups in the local church and strengthen the home and extension services of the church, giving special attention to families of infants, small children, homebound mothers, etc .

2. Organize more church schools. This is one of the major "thrusts" of the Quadrennial Emphasis.

3. Emphasize evangelistic concern by seeking new members for the church school, endeavoring to create in the school and church an atmosphere of real Christian fellowship through which persons may be won for Christ.

The recommendations grew out of findings presented by the staff at the recent annual meeting of the board. The division requested its staff in Nashville to continue the research and to develop more effective means of communication to implement the program of Christian education.

The rate of membership growth in Methodist church schools has been declining slightly for about three years. In 1960 the membership decreased by about a half of one per cent to a total of 7,127,940. Dr. Leon M. Adkins, general secretary of the Divisioin of the Local Church, said this "gives us grave concern and demands our best insight, thought, and planning."

Missouri T&C Institute

(Continued from Page 8)

Iberia Congregational Christian Church
Wheeler Congregational Christian Church
First Christian Church, Sweet Springs
Zion Lutheran Church, Pocahontas
Kennett Methodist Church, Kennett
White Oak Pond Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Lebanon
Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church
Corder Presbyterian Church
Community Presbyterian Church, La Plata

The program included a tour of the University's Agricultural building and a visit to the Evangelical and Reformed Church, Hartsburg, where facilities were crowded for a dinner banquet and evening service.

The Institute is sponsored by the Seminary of the Missouri School of Religion, the University of Missouri, and the Missouri Council of Churches and a number of cooperating denominational bodies.

Group Studies Problems of Small Church

"To encourage the organization of sub-district groups near the local church for the purpose of training and promotion of the program of the church," was the subject of a recommendation receiving unanimous acclaim by the North Texas Conference Commission on Town and Country Work at its annual meeting held at First Methodist Church, Jan. 16. The motion was presented by Rev. Felix Kendall, pastor of First Church, Sulphur Springs.

Cooperation Stressed

The recommendation approved by the commission composed of laymen and ministers carried the stipulation that it be in cooperation with plans of the North Texas Conference for group work within the districts in the fields of evangelism and education as outlined by Bishop William C. Martin in the Jan. 7 meeting of the conference Commissions on Evangelism and Education at University Park Methodist Church in Dallas.

Supt. Miller Speaks

Dr. T. Lee Miller, Dallas North-east District Superintendent, speaking during the morning session on "The Need for Greater Continuity of Purpose as Related to the Itinerant Ministry," told the group of problems confronting small churches, in particular, resulting from frequent turn-over of pastoral leadership.

Rev. Ed T. Hayes, chairman of the Commission on Town and Country Work, presided at the meeting, and Rev. John Poe Hensley was the song leader.

Panel Discussion

Exploring the need for greater "Continuity of Purpose and Long Range Planning," was the basis of a panel discussion following Dr. Miller's address. The panel included Professor Marvin T. Judy and Dr. R. F. Curl of Perkins School of Theology, Rev. O. B. Rogers, Rev. Fred Adams, Rev. Henry Mood and Rev. Boyd I. DeVore.

In analyzing the problem of decreasing population in rural areas and its effect on small churches, Prof. Judy urged that churches not be eliminated because of small numbers and inability to support a full-time ministry, but rather that pastorates be enlarged to provide one minister for approximately every 300–400 members. He suggested grouping two or more small churches under the leadership of one full-time pastor. He also proposed that large churches might adopt the plan of each including a small rural church within its ministry, thereby giving the small church full-time pastoral leadership and continuity of program even though able to finance only a portion of the expense of full-time ministry.

Resource Material

Suggested by Phil Aylesworth

The Country Church—No. 1 Rural Influence

This article by Dr. Selz C. Mayo, Rural Sociology Department, N. C. State Col., reports a study to determine the types of organizations in which rural people participate, and their amount of participation. The result—"Rural people continue to give to the rural church the largest part of the time they allot to organizations (78%). Dr. Mayo concludes that organizations other than churches reach only a comparatively small number of people."

Motives for Church Participation in an Interstitial Rural Locale

This is the title of a paper presented at the Rural Sociological Society this August. It is based on a study by J. Ross Eshleman, Research Assistant in Rural Sociology, Dept. Agr. Econ. and Rural Soc., Ohio State Univ., Columbus, Ohio.

The study is significant not only for its findings but it illustrates the need for research in this area of the church and community. It also provides a good demonstration of service by the University to help meet this need.

The Minnesota Community—Country and Town in Transition

This new book by Lowry Nelson traces the changes taking place in the community today. It is available from the Univ. of Minn. Press, Minneapolis 14, Minn.

The Rural Community and the Agricultural Program, Bul. 552, Mont. State Col., Bozeman, Mont., by Carl F. Kraenzel, Agr. Econ. & Rural Soc. Dept.

The report deals with community aspects relative to the agricultural program. It covers: the attitude of farmers and ranchers concerning agricultural programs; participation in programs; evidence of community weakness; price squeeze and its impact on the community; and, community aspects of an agricultural program.

This study is significant for all organizations and institutions serving the rural community. It applies especially to the sparcely populated areas of the Great Plains. Write to Mont. State College if you would like a copy.

KENNETT CHURCH NAMED OUTSTANDING

The Methodist Church of Kennett, Missouri was named as the outstanding Methodist church in the field of community service at the 1961 Town and Country Church Institute, held January 30 to February 1 at Columbia. This interdenominational conference recognized the church along with those of other participating denominations at the opening day's banquet.

In part the citation read: "This town congregation has reached beyond their membership with the concept of Christian service.

Offers Services

"The church sponsors Boy Scouts, Cubs and an Explorer post. Its building is also used by Girl Scouts and Brownies. A "Well Baby Clinic" and an "Eye Clinic" are held monthly by the county department of health in their modern education unit. The Commission on Christian Social Concerns has studied the effect of new industry moving into this agricultural area and have assisted with a School for Exceptional Children. A unique project is their "Youth-Sponsor" program whereby youth in trouble is assigned to church members by the County Court for personal attention.

Cooperation

"As a member of the Kennett Association of Churches, this congregation cooperates with other denominations for observances such as the World Day of Prayer. Through the recently organized Dunklin County Group Minisrty, this church joins eleven other Methodist churches in an effort to improve program and leadership of small churches. Laymen from the church go on regular schedules to three small churches in the county as trained lay speakers. A special project this year has been the founding of the new "Faith" mission congregation in a growing edge of town.

World-Wide Concern

"Concern is world-wide as witnessed by the church's full support of a national pastor in Costa Rica. Last year's School of Missions had an enrollment of 313, nearly half of the total church membership."

Pastor of the Kennett Methodist Church is Rev. Ivan Lee LaTurno. Last year's winner of this "community service" citation was the Fortescue Methodist Church in northwest Missouri. The presentation in each case was made by the Missouri Area Town and Country director, Rev. Dan Schores.

Three Frontiers Face Churches

Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg of St. Louis, president of the National Council of Churches and minister of Delmar Baptist Church, has called on Protestantism to explore the three greatest frontiers of today—space, human relations and missions.

He told the New Jersey Baptist Convention recently that regarding space "our main concern should be whether this penetration of outer space is to be conserved for the purposes of peace and human progress or the perpetration of the wars and enmities that have prevailed on earth."

"The answer," he said, "will depend largely on what the churches do now in the way of unity and cooperation."

Turning to human relations, Dr. Dahlberg said that anyone who has been picketed by "racial and religious hate groups" for endorsing integration, or who has been confronted with bomb threats for speaking and writing on a debatable national issue knows that "tomahawks and scalping parties are not entirely a thing of the past."

Of the three frontiers, the greatest are missions and evangelism, he continued.

"We must be prepared to do battle against ideologies that are completely hostile to everything we stand for, not only in the Communist camps, but in the pagan and materialistic areas of our own country," he declared.

"This", he added, "would involve going into the dirty and hopeless areas of the nation and meeting the wrongs and injustices of life head on."

Kansas CROP Collecting Meat for Relief

Kansas church people and the state's farmers and ranchers are concerned about "putting meat on the bones" of refugee children. The campaign, Meat for Relief, begun recently by the Kansas Christian Rural Overseas Program of Church World Service, is now in full swing.

Announcing its goals, the Rev. Albert W. Farmer, national CROP director, said that farmers are designating meat animals to be slaughtered. The meat is being canned and distributed overseas through regular CWS channels. In addition, he said, cash in lieu of meat is being asked to help finance the canning and shipping.

The campaign got its start Oct. 8 in the Topeka Municipal Auditorium in the presence of Governor George Docking, the Rev. Joseph L. Hughes, executive secretary of the Topeka Council of Churches, and Mr. N. V. Hudelson, president of the Kansas Livestock Association.

Mr. Farmer also reported on the Abruzzi Project of Kansas CROP, a particular interest of Shawnee County. Gifts to CROP have made heavy piece of farm machinery available to the Abruzzi Farm Cooperative at Villa San Sebastino in Italy. Begun as an Italian Methodist project, Mr. Farmer said it has now broadened to include other denominational groups. To help more Italian farmers grow more food, the Shawnee CROP committee has just set $7,500 as its goal, he reported.

Mississippi Town & Country Institute

(Continued from Page 2)

Southeastern Jurisdictional Council, The Methodist Church, Atlanta, Ga. Dr. Sells is a member of the Mid-South CROP Committee.

The Rev. R. B. Patterson, Grenada, was recognized as the Rural Minister of the Year and Mr. L. W. Kitchens, Utica, was honored as Mississippi's Layman of the Year.

Individual Church Awards went to the following: Acona Methodist, Artesia Baptist, McLeod's Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian, Palmetto Methodist, Pleasant Grove, Methodist,, PleasantValley Methodist, Salem Baptist, Tchula Methodist, Thorn Methodist and Tranquil Methodist.

Group Awards went to the Tippah Presbyterian Parish and the Holmes County Farm Bureau.

Rev. Vernon Robinson, Olive Branch, was the outgoing president. New officers elected are Rev. E. E. Stidham, Coffeeville, President; Estes Denton, Artesia, Vice president; Professor Dorris W. Rivers of Mississippi State University, secretary, and Mr. Harry Martin of Tupela, treasurer.

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH!

TO GIVE IS TO GAIN.

1960 CROP GIFTS TOP MILLION MARK

TOP COUNTIES REPORT

Top counties in Kansas, Indiana, Oklahoma, Illinois, and other states provide dramatic proof that many CROP volunteers are working hard to get results in their county campaigns and have been successful. McPherson County, Kansas, was top county with $25,845. Counties reporting more than $10,000 were: Harvey, Kansas, $14,-816; Marion, Kansas, $13,086; Reno Kansas, $11,735; Elkhart, Indiana, $11,328.

Eight counties in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Oklahoma, report contributions valued at more than $7,000.

Although all figures at this date are subject to change most of the 1960 contributions have been reported. Late reports credited to 1961 and final figures on 1960 will be available at a later date.

Inland Shipments of Corn Total 109 Carloads

Counties in five states have shipped 109 cars of corn contributed during the 1960 CROP campaign. Iowa shipped 55 cars, Illinois-41, Minnesota-7, Indiana-5, and Michigan-1, to A. E. Staley Mfg. Co., Decatur, Illinois, for conversion to corn oil.

Commodity giving is definitely on the increase. Corn shipments in 1960 more than doubled the volume over the previous year when 47 cars were shipped.

Corn shipped last year weighed 9,500,000 pounds and had a valuation of $139,000.

In 1960 Iowa shipped 48 more carloads of corn than in 1959.

More Commodity Giving Means More Food To Hungry People

Commodity giving and the hard work of thousands of CROP volunteers brought contributions for the hungry to more than one million dollars in 1960. National CROP Director, Rev. Albert W. Farmer stated that the total value of CROP gifts has reached $1,047,160. This is the highest record since 1952 with a national increase of 7¼ per cent over 1959. Largest percentage increase was Iowa's record $129,000 with 74% increase over 1959. Oklahoma's $82,850 was 52% over the previous year. Indiana gained 32%. Other states showing an increase were Texas, Minnesota, and Michigan.

States contributing over $100,000 in 1960 were: Kansas, $168,591; Illinois, $165,796; Indiana $132,580; Iowa, $129,046; and Ohio, $121,470.

Total giving to CROP in 1959 was $973,748 worth of commodities and cash, also a record year with an increase of 5.68 per cent over 1958.

U. S. Churches Send $50,000 For Immediate Aid To Congo Victims

To meet increasing emergency needs in the strife-ridden Congo, American Protestant churches have advanced $50,000 to the newly-formed Congo Protestant Relief Agency. Representing all Protestant churches and mission boards in the Congo, CPRA is engaged in channeling supplies of all kinds to afflicted areas.

The $50,000 is part of a half million dollars being sought through the American churches in response to a million dollar international appeal for the Congo launched by the World Council of Churches.

Announcement of the grant was made by Bishop Frederick B. Newell, acting executive director of Church World Service, cooperative overseas relief agency of major Protestant and Eastern Orthadox churches in the United States.

Through Church World Service the churches have sponsored active relief programs in the Congo both before and during the present emergency. In the last few months CWS has shipped nearly a half million dollars worth of drugs to assist civilian victims in the war-torn area. Most of these have been contributed by American pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Lord's Acre Harvest Celebrated

With "Thanksgiving" as the theme, more than 100 persons came together at the Godley, Texas Methodist Church, Nov. 16, to celebrate the harvest of the Lord's Acre program.

Bill Hopper, master of ceremonies for the celebration dinner, directed the program for the church. Fifteen families participated this year, and next year's similar program calls for a goal of 100% participation of the congregation.

Rev. Ed Otwell, conference director of the Town and Country Commission was speaker for the evening. His sub ject dwelt with the debts people owe each other and God.

Rev. Jerry Buffington is pastor of the church.

Coming Events

March 7-10 — Arkansas Town & Country Seminar, Little Rock, Arkansas.

March 12 — One Great Hour of Sharing in Many Denominations.

March 20-21 — Arkansas United Church Women, Little Rock, Ark.

CROP Aids Farm Co-op In Italy

Through CROP a crawler-type tractor and plough has been provided for the farmers' Cooperative in the Abruzzi Mountains under the sponsorship of the Methodist Church of Italy. This project is designed to bring into production again land severely damaged by landslides and floods, while also training on a cooperative basis villagers of this tiny Protestant community to more modern agricultural methods.

In Villa San Sebastiano, Italy, Pastor Carile and a representative of Church World Service (US) have successfully established the Evangelical Agricultural Cooperative. CROP has advanced funds for the purchase of an Italian Fiat tractor and a Nardi plough to form the nucleus of the cooperative. CROP will purchase a Laverda harvester later in the year for this community self-help project.

In Kansas this Fall the people of Shawnee County are planning to raise seven thousand dollars for this project through CROP. The County CROP Board visualized this project as a challenge to the cooperative spirit in their churches and community. Some of the money donated to this self-help project will come from people who are not active in the Shawnee County Churches, yet have a deep desire to share.

Italian farmers share the common problem of small farm survival with Kansas farmers. The purchase of modern farm machinery was imperative for the survival of this Methodist Parish of about 300 persons, as well as their neighbors. Unfortunately for these people, cash reserves and credits are not the same in Italy as they are in Kansas.

The new church sponsored cooperative is off to a good start. The Methodist Church of Italy and Villa San Sebastiano shared in the cost of this self-help project. The Church has purchased seeds and has opened a machine shop as an adjunct for the project. However, as a result of this intensive farm program farmers and their wives need to spend time in the fields. The parish must now look after the small children who do not attend school. To meet this need the Church has started a day-school and has financed the salary of a teacher.

All the farmers in the village, irrespective of their church affiliation, have been invited to join the cooperative and to benefit from it.

A new center of interest in the Church has arisen as a result of this self-help project. This parish in Central Italy is now engaged in a practical program that is a community Christian witness.